Disruptive activities of the Tripura National Volunteer guerillas

288. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tribal National Volunteer guerillas are very active in Tripura and its adjoining areas;

(b) what is the number of persons including civilians who have been killed by TNV during the last six months;

(c) whether these TNV guerillas are being supplied sophisticated arms by some foreign powers and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what precautionary measures have been taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) The Tripura (Tribal) National Volun teers (TNV) have been indulging in violent activities in Tripura.

(b) The number of persons killed by TNV during the last six months (15-10-1985 to 15-4-1986) is 32 including civilians.

(c) Nothing specific has yet been known to establish the reported supply of sophisticated arms to TNV by foreign powers.

(d) The State Government of Tripura has been requested to utilise provisions of the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985 to curb the activities of extremists. Para-military forces have also been placed at the disposal of the State Government. Vigil on the borders has been stepped up. A programme for strengthening border outposts in north-east has been approved.

Launching of INSAT-ID

289. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present state of serviceability of our communication satellites and their capacity utilization;

(b) what progress has been made with regard to plans on INSAT 1-D;

(c) the date on which INSAT 1-D is likely to come into operation; and

(d) what benefits are likely to be derived by the country from the operation of satellites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The performance of the operational INSAT-1B satellite, which has completed 31 months in orbit and over 29 months of operational service, continues to be satisfactory. All its four service functions, namely, telecommunication transponders, high power TV transponders, Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR), the meteorological imaging instrument and Data Relay Transponder, are in operation. The planned utilisation of INSAT-1B capacity upto end of 1985-86 has been achieved. The End of Life (EOL) of INSAT-1B is presently predicted as late 1989/early 1990.

(b) and (c) Work on INSAT 1-D spacecraft, started with effect from October 1985, is progressing satisfactorily. The spacecraf readiness is scheduled for mid-1988 and its launch is expected in the October 1988—September 1989 period; the satellite will be operationalised thereafter.